

Section 13

1. [Countability]

Consider degree-one polynomials, i.e. polynomials of the form $P(x) = ax + b$. Determine if the set of all degree-one polynomials is countable under the following conditions:

- (a) a and b must be integers.
- (b) a and b must be rational numbers.
- (c) a and b are real numbers.

2. [Cartesian products]

- (a) Consider the set $\mathbb{N}^2 = \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{N}\}$ of pairs of natural numbers. Prove that \mathbb{N}^2 is countable.
- (b) Let n be a fixed positive integer. Consider the set $\mathbb{N}^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ of n -tuples of natural numbers. Prove that \mathbb{N}^n is countable.

3. [Countable union of countable sets]

Suppose X_1, \dots, X_n, \dots is an infinite sequence of countable sets. (In other words, for each positive integer $i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, there is a countable set X_i .) Prove that their union $\cup_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^+} X_i$ is countable.

[Remark: You may assume the X_i 's are disjoint. The general case is not much harder.]

4. [Wile E. Coyote]

Wile E. Coyote just bought some new Acme bombs and wants to drop one on the roadrunner. Wile E. Coyote hypothesizes that the roadrunner is at some location p , moving at some velocity v , and accelerating with constant acceleration a , where $p, v, a \in \mathbb{N}$. If this hypothesis is true, devise a strategy by which Wile E. Coyote is guaranteed to drop an Acme bomb on the roadrunner within a finite amount of time.